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Action

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SENT DEPARTMENT 739, REPEATED INFORMATION BERLIN 231, LONDON 186, PARIS 220, MOSCOW 103.

REF:BERLIN'S 377 TO DEPARTMENT.

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AT QUADRIPARTITE MEETING GERMANS SAID THEY HAD INFORMATION INDICATING LAST WEEK'S S-BAHN INCIDENTS BERLIN MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTENDED BY COMMUNISTS PRIMARILY AS MEANS DOCUMENTING "ABNORMAL" SITUATION IN BERLIN. STATEMENTS MADE BY VARIETY SOURCES IN SOVIET ZONE POINT POSSIBILITY S-BAHN FRACAS ONLY BEGINNING OF SERIES CONTINUING HARASSING EFFORTS WHICH WOULD DEMONSTRATE WORLD AT LARGE DANGERS INHERENT IN PRESENT SITUATION WEST BERLIN AND NECESSITY AND URGENCY EARLY SOLUTION. RATIONALE SEEMS TO BE THAT WITH CONTINUED EFFORT THIS KIND AS OPPOSED TO DIRECT ATTACK COMMUNISTS WILL BE ABLE DEVELOP CONVINCING CASE FOR PUBLIC OPINION FOR CHANGING BERLIN STATUS AND BUILD UP SUFFICIENT PRESSURES TO FORCE EARLY NEGOTIATIONS.

HOWEVER, GERMAN SOURCES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE PIN DOWN PRECISE SOVIET ROLE IN LAST WEEK'S INCIDENTS. THEIR INFORMATION SEEMS INDICATE SOVIETS WERE INFORMED OF EAST GERMAN INTENTIONS, BUT ACCORDING ONE REPORT SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN PERVUKHIN SOUGHT TO DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM ACTION SINCE HE REPORTEDLY RECEIVED MOSCOW DIRECTIVE TO AVOID DRAMATIC INCIDENTS IN BERLIN FOR PRESENT. WHATEVER SOVIET ROLE WAS AT BEGINNING GERMANS, HOWEVER, TEND BELIEVE IT WAS SOVIET DECISION WHICH FINALLY BROUGHT ABOUT REMOVAL FLAGS AND END THIS PARTICULAR EPISODE.

BRUCE

PJD

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